

Councilmember

Magdalena Carrasco

.....
East San José



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UPCOMING EVENTS:

OPEN THROUGH JANUARY 3,
2016

[Christmas In The Park](#)

Free for all

Plaza De Cesar Chavez Park
9 AM - midnight

JANUARY 9, 2016

*Si desea leer este boletín en Español, por favor envíenos un email a
district5@sanjoseca.gov*

Dear Neighbor,

It's December and I want to start by wishing everyone Happy Holidays!

As I look back over the last year, it's hard for me to believe that I have been in office for almost a year now. The end of the year inspires me to look back on how far we have come. My staff along with many community volunteers have tackled a lot of work so far:

- 6 beautification events, including 2 with multiple locations throughout the district;
- helped launch the San José Works program that placed 500 of our teens and young adults in meaningful, career-building summer jobs;
- hosted community office hours twice a month;
- selected two amazing Youth Commissioners to represent East San José;
- championed extending library hours of operation so they're now open 6 days a week;
- reopened the Alum Rock Youth Center
- co-chaired the SJ Learns working group, who just selected their grantees;
- supported the establishment of the Office of Immigrant Affairs;

[All About Snakes](#)

\$10 at 10-11am

Alum Rock Park

Online Registration may be required

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

AACI Feel Good: Do Good

[Join AACI](#) for their volunteer days
[DEC 19](#) 11am - 2:45pm - Holiday
Boxes

El Nino Emergency

Preparedness

A [checklist](#) for how to prepare
[Tips](#) for how to get your family
ready

[Sign up for emergency alerts](#)

Holiday Rent-a-tree

[A zero waste way to enjoy your
holiday tradition](#)

Sign up [online](#) or at 1000 Spring
St, 9am-12pm, Thur through Sat



[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

The Business Corner

El Patio Restaurant

1365 Alum Rock Ave
San Jose, CA 95116

For this month's Business Spot we are featuring El Patio Restaurant, located at 1365 Alum Rock Avenue. El Patio is a unique establishment serving Italian and Mexican cuisine favorites. Although El Patio is small, its vibrant red adds a memorable touch to Alum Rock. The menu features items such as New York Steak, Chicken Piccata, Ahi Tuna Sandwiches, Chorizo Tacos and Breakfast items on Saturday mornings! El Patio is open from 11:30am to 3pm Monday-Saturday and 5-

- helped street vendors with their operator licenses;
- sponsored a community forum on public safety;
- hosted the largest Community Budget meeting in the whole of San José, and
- supported the Alum Rock Ave business community through the problems with the construction and in the formation of their new Business Association.

We also have a lot of things in the works so you can look forward to:

- a final decision on the Rancho Golf Course, which I will continue to fight to keep;
- breaking ground on both Plata Arroyo Park and Hillview Park improvements;
- 3 new traffic calming projects to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety in our community; and
- significant movement on rent control, mobile home park conversions, and wage theft.

Of course, many challenges still exist and I will continue focusing on bringing more investment to East San José, including jobs, increasing the amount of green space for our families, and expanding our infrastructure among other issues.

But before the year ends, I want to take the time to celebrate and hope to see you and your family at any one of several events we are participating in. Learn more about VTA's efforts and our office tree giveaway below.

Santa Run with my staffer Omar Torres was an engaging event that helped a good cause and started the holidays off right with a healthy family activity.

If I missed you at the above holiday events, our community office hours start up again on Wednesday, January 6 from 9 - 10:30 AM at the Starbucks at Story and White.

I wish you all a healthy, happy, and relaxing holiday season, and look forward to all that we will accomplish together in 2016!

Sincerely,

9pm on Monday- Thursday on Friday they are open til 11pm and on Saturday they are open til 10pm, closed on Saturdays. Make it a priority for this New Year to eat and shop locally on our beloved Alum Rock.



Would you like your business highlighted in our newsletter? Please contact District 5 staff for details!

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Councilmember/*Consejal*,
Magdalena Carrasco



Progress on Alum Rock Avenue

I am pleased to see that Alum Rock has not only been cleaned up a bit, with the lanes more open and straight, but also that we are beginning to see holiday lights along this major artery of San Jose and the East Side.

While a lot of the cleanup and finalized construction that needed to be done prior to the rain has been completed, there will be some continuing construction at Alum Rock and McCreery where a storm drain system is being installed. Please bear that in mind during your commute and be aware that this construction will mean some additional noise, dust, and vibrations along with the presence of the work crews and potential detours for those turning at that intersection. It's especially important while navigating the turns there to keep an eye out for pedestrians.



Aside from this inconvenience, there is much to celebrate along the corridor. I hope you all have noticed the first holiday lights turned on last week on the block between 101 and 33rd Street. VTA is installing and managing the lighting of the whole corridor over the next couple of weeks.

Finally, this month VTA sponsored 3 holiday events to encourage patronage of the businesses along the street. They are all open for holiday business. Saturday afternoons saw Santa, Elsa, and Ana stop by the project office at 1592 Alum Rock and pose for photos with more than 200 children. In addition, kids and parents alike had the opportunity to create decorations for one of the 5 small holiday trees VTA has up in their front yard, race cars at the Hot Wheels Rally, and decorate cookies. And once the sun went down, Mayor Sam Liccardo, Councilmember Carrasco, and Supervisor Cindy Chavez joined Santa in lighting the trees on December 5.



How to Make Sure You're Prepared for El Nino

Whether we like to think about it or not, the holiday season also means that it's winter time and that means storm time. This year the San Jose area is expecting more than normal due to El Niño.

We want you, your family, and your neighbors to be prepared no matter what may be coming, so please take a look at and follow the information provided below!



To have on hand for any kind of emergency situation:

- Water - 1 gallon per person per day for at least 3 days (for drinking and sanitation, including enough for pets)
- Food - at least a 3-day supply of non-perishable food (including enough for pets)
- Battery-powered radio with extra batteries or hand crank radio
- Flashlight and extra batteries (or glow sticks)
- First aid kit
- Whistle to signal for help
- Dust mask to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Wrench or pliers
- Manual can opener for food
- Local maps
- Cell phone with chargers, inverter or solar charger
- Blankets or sleeping bags
- Essential medications: 7-10 day supply
- Cash (no large bills)

- Cooking items such as plastic utensils, paper plates, cups, and paper towels
- Tools and supplies such as a screwdriver, hammer, staple gun, and sheeting for windows

Additional steps to take to prepare for El Niño:

- Make sure your windshield wipers are in good shape so you can see when driving during heavy rains
- Take time now when things are dry to have the oil of your car checked and replaced if necessary. Ensure your car has been checked out for any on-going issues.
- Check your tire pressure before the storms begin and check it every time you get gas during the rainy season.
- In order to cut down on the need to rush and increase your chances of an accident, leave your home at least 15 minutes earlier than you usually would. The rain will slow down traffic as well as make rushing more dangerous.

For an El Niño specific check list, go to the City's emergency preparedness website and check out the tip list.

For additional flood preparedness check list, check out the Red Cross's list.

Finally, for a longer breakdown on flooding and how to be prepared, take a look at the Federal Government's recommendations.

Finally, the Hillview Neighborhood Association will have Ryan Broughton from the City's Emergency Services Office on Monday, January 25 at their Neighborhood meeting. The meeting begins at 6:30PM and is held at Dorsa Elementary School - 1290 Bal Harbor Way 95122. Please join the meeting if you are interested in hearing more.

And stay safe, dry, and warm this winter!

Welcome your New East San Jose Staff & Youth Commissioner!

We are excited to end the year with some new faces in your East San José Council office and Youth Commission! Join us in welcoming Elizabeth Placarte as the new District 5 Youth Commissioner and Huascar Castro and Jesse Quijada as new staffers.



Elizabeth Plancarte - Youth Commissioner

Elizabeth, a freshman and founding student at Alpha Cindy Avitia High School, has always had a passion for serving her community. She started as a youth leader for her church group, currently serves her fellow students as Vice-President of her class, and now will represent all District 5 youth as our new Commissioner. She has invested hundreds of hours of her personal time to make sure that East San José youth are engaged with and feel empowered to help their community. We are looking forward to seeing her

do great work for our youth and are glad to have her on our team!



Huascar Castro - Policy Aide

We are pleased to welcome our new staff member Huascar Castro. Huascar recently graduated from San Francisco State University with a BA in political science where he interned with the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. Huascar will be covering the Cassel Neighborhood association as well as work on housing, economic development, and planning, code enforcement matters. On his off time Huascar is an avid sports fan, and is probably watching basketball

after playing basketball with his closest friends. Huascar also loves the summertime because BBQ/ pool parties are his definition of a good time.



Jesse Quijada - Part-time Council Assistant

As a young high school freshman, Jesse volunteered for several different organizations. He became more involved with local politics as he grew older and after moving to East San José - District 5 was appointed by Councilmember Carrasco to serve on the San José Youth Commission. As a Commissioner Jesse assisted in organizing several litter clean ups throughout our local community as well as doing outreach to our area youth to engage them in our office

events such as the Beautification Day, National Night Out, and our Loved Twice baby clothes folding. Jesse joined our staff after he left his position as Youth Commissioner, and now handles our youth outreach and youth services. We are thrilled to have him on board!

San Jose Learns Announces their Grantees

This past February, I was thrilled and grateful to be appointed by Mayor Liccardo as one of three co-chairs for his San Jose Learns Initiative. On Thursday December 3rd, Mayor Liccardo, myself, my fellow co-chairs and one of the grantees, Catholic Charities, announced the recipients of the San Jose Learns initiative. San José Learns will invest \$1.7 million dollars to expand afterschool programs and close the achievement gap for students in San José, especially in East San José.

Since February, afterschool nonprofits, School District Superintendents, School Board Trustees, San José State University educators, and other community leaders worked with our committee to establish a strong and successful program for our students and their families. As a former social worker, First 5 Commissioner, Eastside School Board member, and now a Councilmember, I have always been an education advocate for our East San José communities. I am elated to hear that Alum Rock Union School District has been awarded \$490,000 for their afterschool programs.



Alum Rock and Catholic Charities will now have additional funding to provide

much needed programming for those students who have the highest need for educational support. We have to ensure our students are stimulated and have a rich learning environment, which has been repeatedly proven to help close the achievement gap. This investment is good for the future of San José. We live in a region where a highly educated workforce is required to keep us competitive in this global economy. Programs like SJ Learns is a necessity for our future leaders, teachers, and engineers, and this will improve the quality of life of them and their families.

Again, congratulations to the recipients! Best of luck to your students and families!



San Jose Works: Recap and Results

This past summer through the hard work of the Mayor's Gang Task Prevention Task Force as well as other governmental bodies, San Jose Works offered young people ages 14 and up the opportunity for meaningful work during the summer. Youth gained work experience, built their résumés, and learned that there is an alternative to the streets.



The program was a great success as nearly 200 young people completed the program!

San José youth were working their first jobs, earning their first paychecks, and learning the value of a dollar, while the those 17 and up began receiving more serious job training through various city departments so that they have a better career outlook as they approach adulthood. Along with working, they were also offered résumé writing workshops so those who have never created one could walk away with one and include their valuable summer experience, making them more attractive candidates as future job applicants.

A big thanks to all those at work2future, the Office of Economic Development, the San Jose-Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce, the Santa Clara and San Benito Counties Construction and Building Trades Council, and the Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force for all their hard work to create a program to help youth see their future in a different light. I know these young people will be the future leaders of our community!



East San Jose Turkey Giveaway



This Thanksgiving we teamed up with Police Activities League (PAL) for their annual Thanksgiving turkey giveaway to underprivileged families in East San José. The food basket included full meal with all the traditional Thanksgiving sides.

PAL was able to give away well over 100 full turkey dinners.

The great work that is being done by I want to commend for PAL the amazing work they did for this event and for always working to improve our community. And I want to thank those of you who helped make this holiday a bit brighter and more delicious for those families in need by participating in the gofundme campaign.

Working together is the best way I know to celebrate Thanksgiving!

Wage Theft at the State Level and Local Efforts

As many of you know the Council made wage theft a priority during our last priority setting. Wage theft is widespread in San Jose and workers continue to go unpaid. Starting on January 1st, 2016, California's Labor Commissioner will have a lot more power to enforce employers to pay their employees. The law will prevent wage theft. The Commissioner's new powers include issuing stop work orders against employers who have yet to pay after judgement as well as freezing

employers' bank accounts. The law also makes it possible for criminal and personal liability to be imposed on employer. The Fair Day's Pay Act is important because it gives the Labor Commissioner the powers to collect wages from employers that have judgments against them. This law makes those employers that steal wages accountable to their workers.



Update on President's Immigration Policy

As DAPA/DACA heads to the Supreme Court, the San José community came together at City Hall to voice our support for a program that helps thousands of people accomplish their goals. Recently DACA/DAPA has been under attack by opponents, but we remain hopeful our Supreme Court will uphold a program that does nothing more than to help people that only want to succeed. It was inspiring to see so many people of all ages and races come out and voice their support at City Hall, let us continue the fight until right for all undocumented immigrants are guaranteed.



Since January of 2015 over half of the licenses have been issued to undocumented people. Having a License does not increase the likelihood of being deported, but it does increase street safety. All qualified applicants will have the opportunity to get insured and learn traffic laws all while knowing they are driving under the law. The following links provide detailed explanations to many questions one might have regarding AB 60. The Website is a non-profit designed to provide additional assistance and links to AB 60.

Notice from the DMV: you do not need to pay anyone for AB 60 information or services. In fact, it is against the law for someone to charge you to fill out the AB 60 application form on your behalf. It is a simple form and you, a friend or a relative can fill it out. No one can speed up the process for you. Be wary of scams and rely on the DMV and trusted community organizations for information and assistance.

[This page contains general information and is not legal advice. Every case is different.](#)



Our Baby Clothes Drive was a Great Success!

We wrapped up our first ever infant clothing drive in collaboration with Loved Twice, a non-profit organization that helps newborns-in-need and their parents during their first year of life. The organization collects suitable garments and distributes them to hospitals, shelters, and clinics.

From Nov. 16-27 we collected new and gently used baby clothing in sizes 0-12 months. And on Dec. 5th, we held a sorting party at Cindy Avitia High School where we put the donated clothing into boxes to be delivered to families in need with the help of student volunteers from the Alpha schools.

It was a major success thanks to our generous City Employees as well as the many residents that donated. The drop-off locations included City Hall, Norman Mineta San Jose International Airport, as well as the Almaden, Cambrian, Hillview, and Vineland branch libraries.

If you are still interested in donating, Loved Twice has bins set up at Christmas in the Park next to the Santa Booth in Downtown San Jose. You can also visit their website for more locations at <http://lovedtwice.org>.

